

**MCA offers New Deal to young Malaysians**  
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**By Yow Hong Chieh**

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 2 — MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek today called for a “New Deal” for the young and future generations of Malaysians.

In his opening speech at the 58th MCA annual general meeting here, Dr Chua said the government needed to reach out to alienated youths and abandon long-held policies that no longer reflect the aspirations of the people.

“If we do not do away with them or adapt them to the times, they will act as stumbling blocks that will impede the progress of the nation and its people,” he told delegates here.

He stressed that the baggage of the past should not be a “millstone around the necks” of young Malaysians and urged the prime minister to take a “giant step forwards” and offer them hope and confidence that their future lay with Malaysia.

Dr Chua said Barisan Nasional (BN) must rise above narrow self-interests and act now to rework the “social contract” agreed upon by the ruling coalition’s three main component parties when the nation gained independence.

PM Datuk Seri Najib Razak (centre) arrives at the MCA AGM in Kuala Lumpur October 2 2011. — Picture by Jack Ooi

“The aspirations of the younger generation may not be the same as ours. As the government and leaders of the country, we must tailor our policies and programmes to the young,” he said.

But the MCA president also stressed that the New Deal should not be seen as an attempt to completely rewrite the power-sharing agreement set out 54 years ago.

The government must also take pains to listen to the grievances of Malaysians, who were not more vocal, active and politically conscious than before, he added.

Under the New Deal, Dr Chua suggested that Putrajaya offer more avenues for peaceful dissent and abolish, not amend, restrictive press laws.

“Political transformation should go beyond the politics of cohesion, the politics of threat and the politics of race,” he said.

“We should rise above all these and take political recourse to a different dimension. We should take politics away from the heat of race and religion.”

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